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FOUR CHARGED IN IDENTITY THEFT RING

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney John K. Vincent announced today that a Federal Grand Jury in Sacramento returned an indictment charging ROBERT FREDERICK TUCKER, 26, of Sacramento, MARY THERESE SLIGER, 39, of Sacramento, TIFFANY ANNE MASSE, 28, of Elk Grove, and TODD CHARLES TERLL, 36, of Sacramento, with multiple counts of bank and credit card fraud.

The indictment charges that starting in July of 2000, defendant TUCKER engaged in bank fraud schemes with defendants SLIGER and TERLL, which involved the use of a computer to create fraudulent checks using account information which was wrongfully obtained from various victims. As part of the scheme, these checks were cashed resulting in losses to the victim banks. The indictment also charges that defendant SLIGER deposited into her own personal account several credit card convenience checks which she knew were fraudulently obtained.

In addition, the indictment charges that defendants TUCKER and MASSE were part of a separate credit card fraud scheme, which involved the use of wrongfully obtained personal information to apply for and obtain credit cards in other individuals' names. Finally, defendant TUCKER is charged with possessing equipment used to manufacture false identification documents and credit cards.

If convicted, defendants TUCKER, SLIGER, and TERLL face a maximum sentence of thirty years in prison and up to a \$1,000,000 fine for each count of bank fraud charged. In addition, defendants TUCKER, SLIGER, and MASSE face a maximum sentence of fifteen years in prison and up to a \$250,000 fine for each count of credit card fraud which is charged.

The charges in the indictment are only allegations and the defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney James P. The charges in the indictment are only allegations and the defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. Arguelles and was investigated by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the Sacramento Sheriff's Office, the Sacramento Police Department, and the Roseville Police Department.

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